



# Town of Chatham

## Department of Public Works

221 Crowell Road

Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

Tel: 508-945-5155 Highway Dept.

Tel: 508-945-5150 Water & Sewer Division

Fax: 508-945-5152

To: All Water Customers

Re: Regulating Irrigation Systems Connected to Public Water Supply

Dear Water Customers:

Attached is a copy of the regulations governing irrigation systems connected to the Town's public water supply along with an application for registering an irrigation system. These regulations do not apply to irrigation systems which are solely connected to a private well with NO physical interconnection to the Town's water supply.

The primary goal for registering irrigation systems is to protect the public water supply system from the potential of contamination due to a backflow condition. Contamination can occur when the pressure in the water main at the street is lower than the pressure in your house thus, causing back-siphonage. This can occur during hydrant flushing, firefighting or a water main break. This reversal of the direction of flow can pull the stagnant water sitting around your irrigation heads back into your household plumbing and ultimately into the public drinking water supply. This water typically contains pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and organic waste. The backflow prevention device that is required on all irrigation systems prevents this reversal of flow from occurring by either the check valve in the device closing or the air inlet opening to break the vacuum. Under NO circumstances should there be a physical interconnection between a private well and the Town's water supply.

Annual inspections for possible contamination sources and testing of backflow prevention devices are required for each irrigation system. An inspection fee of \$25.00 will be charged for each inspection.

The secondary goal of these regulations is to ensure that irrigation systems can comply with any water use restriction required under the rules of the Water Division's Drought Management Plan.

Any person who plans to connect an irrigation system so the public water supply system shall obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Division prior to the actual installation. There is a \$50.00 permit fee for a new irrigation installation and for registering an existing system.

Thank you for helping us protect your drinking water supply.

**TOWN OF CHATHAM  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Chatham's Board of Selectmen, as the Water Commissioners, at the February 17, 2004, Public Hearing, adopted the following amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Water Department.

**Article VI  
IRRIGATING SYSTEMS CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

To connect irrigating systems to the public water supply the following rules apply:

1. All irrigating systems shall be installed with an approved backflow prevention device. Said device shall be inspected initially after its installation and before irrigation system is activated, and periodically thereafter by employees of the Water Department in accordance with Article V, Cross Connections.
2. No cross connection of a water system connected to the public water supply with irrigation system connected to a private well is allowed.
3. All irrigation systems connected to the public water supply must be equipped with a timing device that can be set to make the system conform to the local odd/even outdoor watering restrictions.
4. All irrigating systems must be equipped with some type of rain sensing device that will prevent the system from starting automatically during periods of rain.
5. Any person who has existing irrigation system shall obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Department before December 31, 2004.
6. Any person who has the intention to install a new irrigation system shall obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Department prior to the actual installation.
7. All systems, those currently in existence as well as any installed in the future, shall comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Water Department.
8. Any system not conforming with the above criteria will be disconnected from the public water supply system.

The new Article VI, Irrigation Systems shall be inserted in the Table of Contents and in the text of the Rules and Regulations after Article V, Cross Connections. The existing Article VI, Water Meters shall be changed to Article VII, Water meters; the existing Article VII, Water Mains and Appurtenances shall be changed to Article VIII, Water Mains and Appurtenances; and the existing Article VIII, Specifications for the Installation of Water Mains and Services shall be changed to Article IX, Specification's for the Installation of Water Mains and Services.

Town of Chatham  
Board of Selectmen

## TOWN OF CHATHAM WATER DEPARTMENT

### Application for registration of irrigation systems connected to the Public Water System.

1. Location of irrigation system connected to the Public Water System.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Attach drawing of the irrigation system's layout showing building(s), septage system, driveway(s), road(s), and the connection to the Public Water System, and location of the backflow prevention device and rain sensor.

3. Is the system installed with a testable back-flow prevention device? Yes      No  
Attach a drawing and specification of the existing back-flow prevention device.  
A testable back-flow prevention device is required on all systems.  
If a back-flow prevention device is not currently installed on your system the  
Water Department will perform a survey and establish the type of device  
required.

4. Is the Irrigation System equipped with pesticides, fertilizer, and/or herbicide dispensing device(s)? Yes      No

5. Is the system equipped with a timing device? Yes      No

6. Is the system equipped with a rain sensor? Yes      No

**PRIVATE WELLS SHALL NOT BE CONNECTED TO ANY IRRIGATIONS SYSTEMS THAT ARE OR WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.**

As stated in the "Town of Chatham, Rules and Regulations of the Water Department," the undersigned agrees to provide access to all authorized agents of the Water Department at reasonable hours for inspection of the irrigation system and testing of the backflow prevention device.

The registration fee for new and existing irrigation systems is \$50.00.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner

Back-flow Prevention Device Approved  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Back-flow Prevention Surveyor

Date Permit Granted: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_